(b) whether there has been any proposal in this regard from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRl RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no proposal, at present, for setting up of an airport in Kanyakumari.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A proposal was received in January, 1999 from Tourism Minister, State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up an airport in Kanyakumari. After examination, the proposal was not found feasible because Kanyakumari is located at an aerial distance of 80 Kms. from Trivandrum International airport.

New Civil Aviation Policy

1663. SHRl P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to announce a New Civil Aviation Policy in the near future;

(b) if so, the contours of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the said policy would offer level playing field for all participants in the aviation sector including development of infrastructure; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRl RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Government has constituted a five-member Committee on 21st July, 2003 to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector that will provide the basis for a New Civil Aviation policy.

Upgradation of Madurai Airport

1664. SHRl S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of modernization/upgradation of Madurai Airport is under consideration of Government;